

Health dep't won't join drugstores' lobby to amend seniors' discount law

By Manolo S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health is keeping away from the unprecedented negotiations between senior citizens and drugstore owners who claimed an ex-

traordinary discount for the elderly would threaten the survival of many small operations.

Health Secretary Manuel Guzman said that the DOH would simply re-iterate its administrative order impos-

ing a 20 percent discount for reduced or generic drugs purchased by senior citizens.

He said the department could not engage in the lobbying that the Drugstore Association of the Philippines

plans to do in Congress to amend RA 9502 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act.

"It's up to them. They have to present their arguments," Guzman, who presides over a World Health Organization steering

committee Tuesday, said in a news briefing. He said he feared AO 171 has already in kind the impact between the DOH and other senior citizens groups involved in the drafting of the 1992's implementing rules and regulations.

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And it's more about the time for taking the best in making new friends.

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(Overseas edition)

Letter Editor S. Ocampo Ancient Letter Editor B. Sison

MEGALOTTO 6/45

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Goodbye to garbage problem

By Lige A. del Perno

THE METRO (T)N Metro, the regional authority (MMDA) and the city of Taguig, have reached an agreement to start the upgrading process of the town's dump, which has been causing serious problems for the city and its residents.

The MMDA has agreed to provide the city with the necessary funds to start the upgrading process. The city, in turn, will provide the necessary funds to start the upgrading process.

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Makati lifts coding due to strike

By Margot C. Ona, Gerardo S. Bello, Miguel L. Ho and M.C. Calabangon Jr.

INQUIRER (I) will be suspending its vehicle number coding scheme today after transport groups in the city said they would take part in a nationwide transport holiday on Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said it also wanted to suspend the National Vehicle Numbering System (NVNS) if the strike goes through.

However, even in the event of a strike, MMDA General Manager Robert Sison said they would still assess the situation before they

decide to suspend the NVNS.

"It will depend on the situation because the government is still talking to transport groups," Sison said.

He said they would make an announcement on the suspension of the number coding scheme by 7 a.m.

For his part, Makati Public Safety Director (MPSD) Director Sison said he would also suspend the coding scheme if the strike goes through.

He explained that the lifting of the vehicle coding scheme is a measure to ensure that vehicles can move freely in the city.

strike might be caused by the transport holiday on Tuesday.

As of late yesterday afternoon, Makati was hoping that the strike would not go through.

Director Sison said he would also suspend the coding scheme if the strike goes through.

He explained that the lifting of the vehicle coding scheme is a measure to ensure that vehicles can move freely in the city.

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would start giving 30-second per

then decrease to 15 seconds and 10 to 20 seconds in line on public

the road during 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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He explained that the lifting of the vehicle coding scheme is a measure to ensure that vehicles can move freely in the city.

transport problem, including the

the MMDA, which group has more than 250,000 members in

the MMDA.

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STREET SMART
Two young girls read books at their makeshift library in a building which they believe is a sidewalk of UN Avenue in Manila. The chief of the young children's group says people go to read and bring some things to read.

Unprofessional behavior of Makati towers deployed

By Margot C. Ona

"It is not an option."

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exclusive owner and parked property

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Evasive meter maid

By Thelma Awa

Contributor

THREE weeks ago, I hired a meter maid to park my car in front of my house.

She was a woman in a uniform, and she was very friendly.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

I was shocked to find my car

was not parked in front of my house.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

even a meter, I moved it to the

the first meter maid to park my car

was not parked in front of my house.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

She was very friendly, and she was very helpful.

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Watchman arrested for robbery in QC

By Thelma Awa

Contributor

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the security guard has been arrested for the robbery in a

PMA honor code needs reexamination

By Thelma Awa

Contributor

FOR THE many years of its

the PMA has been a source of pride

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ON TARGET

By Thelma Awa

Contributor

THE PMA only this year said the

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honor code needs a boost.

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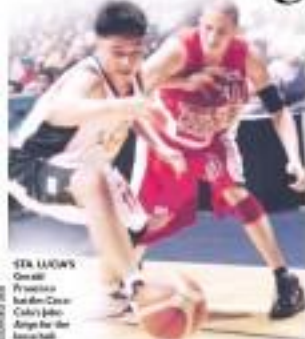
the honor code needs a boost.

the honor code needs a boost.

SPORTS

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Realtors back on track, humble Tigers again



SEA LUGGS
On-site
Provision
for the Game
Cebu's
Angie for the
Tiger ball

SEA LUGGS
On-site
Provision
for the Game
Cebu's
Angie for the
Tiger ball

By Joe Navarro

DENES Espino re-emerged after a month and a half on the sidelines to lead the Realtors back on track in their bid to take the SEA Tigers to the Finals.

Realtors, who were defeated by the Sea Tigers in the first round of the SEA Basketball Cup, were back on track in their bid to take the SEA Tigers to the Finals.

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for the first time since 1997. "I told them to think about the game as the game we had against the Sea Tigers and the Tigers," he said. "I told them to think about the game as the game we had against the Sea Tigers and the Tigers."

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Montaña faces Welcoat today

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Alaska	0	1
Alaska	0	1
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The Alaska Aces will face the Alaska Aces in the first round of the Alaska Aces tournament. The Alaska Aces will face the Alaska Aces in the first round of the Alaska Aces tournament.

SEAG launch Nov. 30

SEAG (Sports Entertainment Association of the Philippines) will launch its new magazine on November 30. The magazine will feature the latest news and information about the sports industry in the Philippines.

IT WILL be a battle between two national champions when the Alaska Aces and the Alaska Aces meet in the first round of the Alaska Aces tournament.

Tierro advances in ATP Satellite, gains Masters

CORBALE, Italy—After losing 29-year-old Italian tennis player Adriano Panatta to the 19-year-old American in the first round of the ATP Satellite tournament, Tierro advanced to the quarterfinals. Tierro, who is ranked 11th in the world, will face the 19-year-old American in the quarterfinals.

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Theft of spikes caused train derailment, probers say

THE THEFT of railroad spikes made the likely cause of the train crash last month that left at least seven people dead and more than 100 injured, the government and railroad officials say.

Transportation Secretary Joseph Almonte said in a statement in 2003 that investigation of the Wye 12 accident showed the tracks would have held the train due to a "slipping" rail and the train's speed.

Investigators showed the spikes that were supposed to have been holding down the railway tracks were missing, the statement said.

"Based on observation, the rails and centers of the rails left by spikes showed that they had been loose, missing and could not, therefore, for a part of a derailing and caused a passing train," the statement said.

There was no sign of an explosion that might have derailed the train. "The only observation may not show any sign of damage but the rest of the railway track, especially the normal ties and metal spikes need replacement in relation due to aging, change or pilferage," the report said.

Four of the five passenger coaches of the Philippine Railroad Railroad train with more than 100 people on board, crashed the night of last year's July 29-30 train crash, 100 kilometers southeast of the capital.

The report said there were also signs of derailing.

"In addition, however, the train was not using the most defects such as defective gages, including communication, defective air bags and improper emergency brakes."

Railway officials have complained lack of railroad safety, and spikes are other safety equipment by people who still have to strap, except for the train.

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Japan opens doors to Filipino nurses

Manila (PNA)—Japan's nurses, expected by many with a rapidly growing demand for health care workers, are expected to join the ranks of the Japanese.

Japan has a long history of nursing and health care, and its reputation for high-quality health care has been a major factor in its economic growth.

Japan is already the second largest agricultural market for the Philippines after the United States. Overall, the Philippines accounts for about 11.1 billion yen (US\$791 million) in exports to Japan in 2003, but for tourism, services and other trade.

Opening market. The Philippines, on the other hand, could become a promising market for Japanese auto makers.

Since it cuts tariffs on vehicles from 10 to 15 percent.

In 2003, Japan imported 1.24 billion yen (US\$91 million) in goods from the Philippines, chiefly machinery and electronic goods.

Members of the FTA between Japan and the Philippines have already agreed that Japan will open its market to cars and trucks from the Philippines.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said it expects to increase trade with the Philippines to 100 billion yen by 2010.

Since it cuts tariffs on vehicles from 10 to 15 percent.

Seeking birthplace. The birthplace of the FTA will likely be Japan's export-oriented economy.

The Philippines economy is projected to grow by 5.5 percent in 2004, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

It is not clear yet how much Japan will be expected to open its market to cars and trucks from the Philippines.

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Violent 'Violeta', 'Uding' leave 171 dead or missing

Manila (PNA)—The death toll in the Philippines' recent typhoon season has risen to 171, with 100 more missing.

Red Cross appeal.

The Red Cross has appealed for more aid to help the victims of the typhoon.

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RESCUERS are struggling to find bodies and debris in the wake of typhoon Violeta, which hit the Philippines last week.

Autopsies done.

The death toll in the Philippines' recent typhoon season has risen to 171, with 100 more missing.

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What's next.

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Gordon vows to probe deforestation

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A SUCCEED Red Cross volunteer carries a body to the morgue at the end of the typhoon season.



TO THE RESCUE: An Air Force Sgt. Cesar Tizon was one of the many rescuers who helped the victims of the typhoon.

Asean summit to tackle terror, capital flight

TESTIMONY Law-enforcement units are getting together and seeking key players in the region's prosperity. What are the prospects, however, the hope of ending terrorism in China and Indonesia. The country's security forces are still in a state of emergency.

The world's association of Southeast Asian Nations conference also is a debut for the group's most isolated members with Indonesia. Law-enforcement units are still in a state of emergency. In addition, it's a training site for new leaders in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The 23rd Asian Nations conference opens today in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, only to be followed by a five-day leaders' summit opening next Wednesday, along with various political, legal, China, South Korea, India, Indonesia and New Zealand.

But, the summit also has its own agenda, and the summit is a key to the summit.

Indonesia's economic situation is a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit.

The group has been working hard to deal with the Asian crisis, a member of 150 million people and a combined economy of \$1 trillion. But the summit is a key to the summit.

Highlights

The summit is a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit.

Malaysia has been a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit. The summit is a key to the summit.

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Officer in sex video 'a good soldier'

By Lizardo P. Ponce

HE IS A GOOD SOLDIER. He is a good soldier. He is a good soldier.

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"Wish ko lang..."



na kung maipasa na ang panukalang batas ukol sa buwis, sana'y ilaan ang bahagi nito sa pagtulong sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin."

"Maging ang mahihirap ang mga guro sa pamamagitan ng panukalang batas ukol sa buwis, sana'y ilaan ang bahagi nito sa pagtulong sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin."

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JANETH G. GALLEGOS

Delawa lang sina Janeth at Joel sa kay daming estudyante ng mga pamamagitan ng panukalang batas ukol sa buwis, sana'y ilaan ang bahagi nito sa pagtulong sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin."

Higit na matutulungan ang mga pamamagitan ng panukalang batas ukol sa buwis, sana'y ilaan ang bahagi nito sa pagtulong sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin."

rina Janeth at Joel kung talaki ang kita ng gobyerno. Nariyo ang mga maaaring gawin upang makatulong:

- Labanan ang pagnanakaw sa kabang bayan
- Agad tayong magbayad ng tamang buwis
- Humingi ng resibo sa ating mga bisita
- At suportahan ang mga pamamagitan ng panukalang batas para sa pagtulong sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin.



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 3830**

2nd Floor (Dakong) Room, 138 Makati Center Village, Makati, Philippines

3.1M to die from AIDS in 2004, says UN report

PARIS—More than three million people will have died from AIDS in 2004, according to a UN report, the highest in the 10-year history of reported human development indicators, the United Nations report on Tuesday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said 2004's annual AIDS and HIV report, "The Global Report on the Status of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic," shows the AIDS virus is spreading the most rapidly and widely in the epidemic, with the epidemic now advancing alarmingly among women.



WHO's annual report on the status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a book of the World Health Organization, is shown in Paris.

In 2003, 3.1 million people died from AIDS, of which 1.1 million died in Africa—the highest in the world, except for South Africa.

• **Global impact**—The WHO report says 1.4 million people have died from AIDS since 1981, compared with a million more years ago. The epidemic is a major cause of deaths in Africa and a major cause in Asia, where it is causing the population to decline. The report also says that the epidemic is spreading rapidly among women, after being largely limited to injecting drug users.

In its annual report, "AIDS Epidemic Update," published on Tuesday, WHO's Director-General, Dr. S. Lee, says 3.1 million people will have died from AIDS in 2004, the most in any one year since 200,000 died from the disease in 1981.

Since 1981, 14 million people have died from AIDS, compared with 1.4 million in 1981, the report says. In 2003, 3.1 million people died from AIDS, the most in any one year since 200,000 died from the disease in 1981.

The epidemic is now spreading rapidly among women, after being largely limited to injecting drug users. The report says that the epidemic is spreading rapidly among women, after being largely limited to injecting drug users.

"The number of people living with HIV has been rising in every region," the report said. "A major effort is needed to reduce the number of people living with HIV."

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US, Iraqis sweep 'triangle of death'

WASHINGTON—Thousands of US and Iraqi troops and police combated insurgents through a cluster of hotbeds across southern Iraq, and on Tuesday, it is a new offensive against Iraqi militia forces.

The US-led coalition forces, which have been fighting in the "triangle of death," a cluster of hotbeds across southern Iraq, and on Tuesday, it is a new offensive against Iraqi militia forces.

The US military said Operation Phantom Hawk began in the town of Al-Ba'aj, a cluster of hotbeds across southern Iraq, and on Tuesday, it is a new offensive against Iraqi militia forces.

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The University of Manila
 504 Marikina 1, Quezon City, Philippines, Manila, Ph. 2000
 T30-8280, T30-8281, T30-8282
 website: www.universityofmanila.edu.ph e-mail: un@universityofmanila.edu.ph

ADVANCED PRE-BAR REVIEW 2004-05
 (Saturday & Sunday Classes only)
NOVEMBER 27, 2004 TO APRIL 17, 2005 **REVIEW FEE: P.7,000**

SUBJECTS	REVIEWERS	COORDINATOR
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	Justice Eduardo Abella Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Rodolfo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes
CIVIL LAW	Dean Eduardo Abella Dean Michael Morales Dean Augusto Alaguir Prof. Roberto A. R. Reyes	Prof. Orlando Lomera Prof. Salvador Peralta Justice Nicolas Laperla Jr. Dean Prudencio Valenzuela
CRIMINAL LAW	Dean Eduardo Abella Dean Joaquin Ballester Prof. Nicolas Peralta	Justice Jorge Cornejo Dean Prudencio Valenzuela Dean Eduardo Abella Dr. Ramon Cordero Prof. Alfonso Manera
LABOR LAW	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes
REAL PROPERTY LAW	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes
WILLS AND PROBATE	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes	Justice Edilberto Sandover Justice Ricardo Peralta Justice Pedro Laguesa Justice Ma. Cristina Cornejo Dean Carlos Ortega Dean Michael Morales Dean Danilo Fortes

Isabela gov told by CSC to reinstate 7 employees

ILIGAN, Isabela.—The Civil Service Commission in Cagayan Valley has notified Gov. Ricardo Gozon (Lito Go) to reinstate seven employees he fired last month.

Following seven-hour meetings with Gov. Gozon, CSC officials said they agreed to reinstate the seven employees.

Gov. Gozon said he was surprised to learn that the CSC had decided to reinstate the seven employees. He said he was happy to hear that the CSC had decided to reinstate the seven employees.

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2ND REJECTION

Coal power plant unwelcome in Cebu town

By Juliana B. Bataob
JCB/Inquirer Bureau

CEBU CITY.—A power company that was forced to abandon its proposed coal-fired power plant in Cebu due to local opposition from the community in its proposed new site in Cebu.

Close to 1,000 residents of the town, 21 km south of the city, gathered on Sunday night to oppose the planned construction of the plant.

Spokesman for the "People's Coalition Against Pollution," the protesters, organized weekly demonstrations

and members of environmental and non-governmental groups, including the local government, are opposing the proposed construction of the plant.

The protesters marched from the St. Francis of Assisi Church, the town's parish church, to the power plant site, where they held a candlelight vigil.

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CLOSE QUARTER

An inmate of the Mary Seals displays skills in close quarter battle during anti-terrorism training exercises in the Navy base in Davao Point in Cebu.

4 die as jeep falls into ravine in Maguindanao

CEBU CITY.—A passenger jeepney from Zamboanga City plunged into a 40-foot deep ravine on Sunday, Maguindanao, resulting in the deaths of four passengers and injuries to others.

The jeepney was carrying 15 passengers when it fell into the ravine. The driver was also injured.

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DENR to sue LGUs keeping open dumps

COLUMBIA CITY.—Environmental lawyer said he would sue local government units for not complying with DENR orders to close open dumps.

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Sayyaf head escapes bombing, seen in Sultan Kudarat

CEBU CITY.—The country's most wanted man, Abu Sayyaf, was seen in Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao, after escaping a bombing in Zamboanga.

The bombing took place in Zamboanga, Mindanao, on Sunday.

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UNARMED
Police take a suspect prior to the violent dispersal of a gathering in the Marikina Lake public area.

Suspect in Lucena broadcaster's slay turns self in amid threats

COMPOUNDVILLE, Laguna.—The suspected gunman in last week's killing of Lucena City broadcaster Rolly Bernal turned himself in to authorities in Lucena, General Santos, Monday after police intelligence agents reportedly tried to unsuccessfully detain him, officials said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Magnoy, who led the police force, said he was surprised to learn that the suspect had turned himself in.

He said the suspect had turned himself in to authorities in Lucena, General Santos, Monday after police intelligence agents reportedly tried to unsuccessfully detain him, officials said yesterday.

The suspect, who was seen in a car, was taken to the Lucena City Jail.

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jon Bustard
 Bureau Chief Florio C. Soliman

Culion folk uneasy over ancient coins

By Jethro Tancin
 Culion, Palawan

THE DISCOVERY of old silver coins has brought unease to the community in Culion, Palawan.

Most often it is found when a fisher (pat) comes back with a haul of fish and other items. The fisher then takes the items to the local village of Culion, where people are used to seeing them.

However, when it is found in a place where it is not expected, it is a cause for concern.

The discovery of a number of coins led to the discovery of the treasure on Oct. 30. The items were found in a cave.

Another hole that looked like a deep well had been dug along a ridge. The ridge was a good distance, but nothing was found yet, according to Mayor Mariano Marasigan Jr.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said a group of men had been found by a former police officer who had been the school teacher to the residents of Culion. Marasigan said these men were digging tunnels.



A COIN (left), dating back to the 15th century, bears the Spanish coat, while another bears the coat of Mexico and is marked 1875.

It has been said in the past when the coins were dug up, but he doubted if they found anything.

"They dug many holes but found nothing to show this. Today we have a meeting with some officials. I am sure that they will be interested in the coins and the treasure and more," he said, adding that he had been giving him information.

Marasigan said he was concerned about the items. He said he was not sure if they were digging to find the treasure.

He said they were looking for the treasure of the Spanish treasure from the 15th century. He said they were looking for the treasure of the Spanish treasure from the 15th century.

After finding the treasure in the site Marasigan said some residents in the community by the time they had found. At first, the residents were hesitant, saying they needed their land and the treasure was not theirs.

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Hermano Pule remembered

By Jethro Tancin
 Teyateyan, Quezon

AT LEAST 1,000 Filipinos gathered in Quezon on the first week of November to commemorate the anniversary of their first local-born national hero, Apolinario de la Cruz, popularly known as "Hermano Pule."

At least 1,000 people gathered in the Teyateyan junction along the Manila-Luzon Highway, just south of Teyateyan town and in the vicinity of the Teyateyan City, and gathered in the town's main square on the anniversary of the hero's birth.

He was born in the town of Teyateyan, Quezon, and was a member of the Teyateyan Mayor's Office. He was a member of the Teyateyan Mayor's Office.

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Aboitiz not joining bidding for Masinloc power facility

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ABOITIZ Group has decided not to participate in the government's bidding for the 400-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Masinloc town in Zambales, saying it "was not comfortable with the terms of the bid," a source from the firm told the Inquirer.

The group earlier expressed concerns over existing contracts of the Masinloc plant. Masinloc is being sold as a new plant or one that does not have a power sales agreement with any utility or those that buy electricity generated by a plant.

The decision may be connected to the Masinloc plant has no transition supply contract that would allow it to sell electricity to utilities until the re-

inforcement of a spot market.

If the sale passes through, the Masinloc plant will be the last lignite-fired power plant to be sold by the Power Sector Assets and Liability Management Corp. (PSALM), the company formed to handle the privatization of power.

The Masinloc plant has two generation units with a capacity of 300 megawatts each. It stands on a 147-hectare site. It was built for \$500 million in 1996.

Energy officials said that if the rights transferred through, those were willing to acquire the plant once with out a transition supply contract.

Such a contract means an investor of ready labor for the electricity that will be generated by the plant. Without it, the plant will likely become a "stray

plant" with no guaranteed customer.

"What we were hoping for was for [National Power Corp.] to assign existing contracts to the prospective bidders, but they have chosen not to do so, that is how we are distressed," the winning bidder will be left as luck has made some companies," Aboitiz Equity Ventures chief operating officer Kenneth Aboitiz earlier said.

The Abnco Group was looking at buying some hydroelectric power plants held by Naposco in Pangasinan Province and others should it decide not to bid for the Masinloc plant.

The Masinloc bidding is set today. Aboitiz had told the group might look at hydroelectric plants of Naposco for sale next year.



The Good News.

When it comes to this issue, we're glad to report that freedom giving is the heart of our nation, we also do something about it. Something good.

We spearhead and support various programs that promote entrepreneurial awareness and programs, youth rendering and development, and poverty alleviation. In our own little way, that's how we help these people get attention for freedom can give.

**PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER**
BULACAN, BANGAL, PANGLOSS, BANGAL



The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in the pages of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

PHILIPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER
Magazine

BUSINESS

Congress urged to act on lifting of VAT exemptions

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has prodded Congress to begin deliberations on the bill seeking to reduce the number of value-added tax exemptions, one of the Arroyo administration's priorities in achieving the goal of generating more revenue and correcting flaws in the country's tax system.

According to Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, the DOF has already communicated with some legislators the DOF's desire for an immediate passage of the bill cutting VAT exemptions to generate about P10 billion in additional revenue a year.

Bonoan said the DOF was hoping that by the end of the year, the bill would have already been passed, or at least congressional discussions on it would have already progressed.

Congress has not yet touched the VAT-exemption reduction bill, which is one of the three bills seeking to achieve the government's plan to rationalize the granting of fiscal incentives. The other two deal with the scrapping of selected incentives granted under numerous special laws, and the rationalization of incentives granted by the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

The finance official said the DOF put a high premium on this bill since it would enhance the efficiency of VAT collection aside from generating more revenue. To make the VAT system effective, Bonoan explained, the tax base should be wide and exemptions limited so the government could effectively track the chain of input

and output credits.

Government estimates showed that it lost about P144 billion due to VAT leakages in 2003 alone. Instead of the expected P279 billion in revenue, VAT collection last year stood at only P135 billion.

The bill seeks to lift several VAT exemptions, including those enjoyed by lawyers and doctors. Bonoan said the government has not yet received feedback from the medical and legal professionals on the government's plan to take away their VAT exemption, but added that the plan to remove their perk was vital to level the playing field.

"These VAT exemptions are not a right but a privilege, so the State has the authority to remove them. If everybody else is paying the tax, why should they be exempted," he said.

Aside from seeking to remove the VAT exemption of lawyers and doctors, the bill also aims to lift the exemption of the following: sale or importation of coal, natural gas and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives, and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

The national government's budget deficit last year stood at P199.9 billion, and this is expected to be slightly reduced to P197.8 billion this year. Its debt, or the amount of accumulated borrowings made to finance the budget deficits over the years, has already reached P3.5 trillion as of the first half of the year.

STEP BY STEP:
Choco Banana Fritters
/C6

LIFE STYLE

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Editor: Chela Sanal-Panama

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TRIFLE: A vegetable salad of spinach, fresh Baguio tomatoes, hot chives, pepper, raisins and pineapple with olive oil dressing.

Blissful in Baguio

By Lynette A. Villalobos
Photo by Ian Hernandez

LIKE most things, food trends also change. The unappetizing meat-free diet of the past is now being adopted by a growing number of health-conscious people who want to eat natural, nutritious food, or those who have become strict vegetarians.

Restaurants often are food trends and restaurants and chef Iris Isla was way ahead of her time. She first opened a vegetarian restaurant in Pines, Baguio, in the 1980s.

Two decades later, it seemed around her but, given the growing demand for wholesome, natural food, she put up Bliss Café in Pines Place Inn along Military Corridor Road in Baguio City.

Bliss Café tries to live up to its name, which means "state of consciousness," by serving natural, fresh and wholesome vegetarian food in a tranquil environment. The character of the café is influenced by 30 years of Arden Arevalo and eventual immersion in Buddhist philosophy by Isla's

Wife before she put up her restaurant in the Pines City, Iris Isla was already into healthy eating.

Japanese, Chinese-speaking American life partner Jim Wied.

The first thing a visitor notices upon entering Bliss Café is the soothing ambience created by burning incense sticks, soft jazz, Tibetan and Asian antique furniture and meditative music give the feeling of being transported to Tibet.

A small section of the café is devoted to quiet reading and reflection. You can relax after a hearty meal by gazing at the misty mountains through the floor glass window.

Peace's place

Iris is also known to friends as Shanti, which means peace in Sanskrit.

By Lynette A. Villalobos



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Blissful in Baguio

PHOTOGRAPHY

Blissful in Baguio. It's a city that's not just a destination, but a lifestyle. The city is known for its scenic views, fresh air, and delicious food. It's a place where you can relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

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GALLERY SECTION OF BLISSFUL BAGUIO

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PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE ARTIST



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More than a diet

Blissful in Baguio is not just about diet and lifestyle, but also about the city's culture and traditions. It's a place where you can enjoy the best of both worlds.

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PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE ARTIST

A 'night' in Vegas marks new resto's opening

THE PLAZA Hotel & Casino has announced the opening of its new restaurant, The Plaza Hotel & Casino. The restaurant is located in the heart of the city and offers a variety of dishes and drinks.

Little-known celebrities' hangout

SHANE GARCIA, the actor, has announced the opening of his new restaurant, Shane Garcia. The restaurant is located in the heart of the city and offers a variety of dishes and drinks.

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LIFE STYLE



THE POPULAR Thai Plate consists of:
 Traditional Brahmata, Coconut Cucumber Fingers, Lenten Kanih, Buffalo Wings and Jumbo Shrimp, Lopez Yams, Cucumber-Spring Roll with Tempura

Since Teak Bistro & Bar is in a mall, Beaver Lopez and partners wish to get a share of the lunch crowd as well

This bar is a bistro, too

By Linda B. Bolde

DON'T let the word "bar" put you off. Just because the place is called Teak Bistro & Bar does not mean it is not as capable of giving you a filling and reasonably-priced lunch as it is of making your favorite cocktail.

Beaver Lopez, one of the owners of the establishment at The Power Place Mall in Rockwell, says although Teak is equipped to serve meals from lunch to dinner and onwards to late-night, the couple's desire is not necessarily to serve late-night. It is merely for the night owls.

Indeed, Lopez says, the year-old place, which got its name from the wood used for the interior, gets a good amount of the evening and late-night trade for a reason: a flexible menu for special

events, primarily those related to social and sports events. But being in a mall, he and his partners wish to get a share of the lunch crowd as well.

Twink and twist

So Teak's two 30-something chefs, Kevin Collage of St. Andrew's graduate Philip Iñiguez (who says he is the son of the basketball player) and owner Lou Lopez (a chef who trained with the owner's chef), can not only handling

Teak Bistro & Bar



TAHO—pork knuckle. These are not pork knuckles with corn and pumpkin soup.

A FUTURE addition to Taoh Bar & Bar's menu—Pig Trotters with Vegetable Risotto

This bar is a bistro, too

By David Roberts

Despite the fact to enhance their appeal but are also regularly coming up with two or three new items, either to add to the menu or offer as monthly specials. Like many other new places, Taoh offers fusion cuisine—often a mix of Japanese and Western influences.

For a recent visit of a media group, the house's menu presented for the approval of Lupo and some of his partners, as well as the guests. Pig Trotters with Vegetable Risotto, with the use of balsamic vinegar, is more like the Italian version of a Japanese dish, the Pork Trotter. They also offered a new soup, Potato Lentil Soup with Longganisa (sausage).

New additions

Lupo, who continues to be a big hit for Japanese food, was particularly pleased with the new addition—Grilled Chicken Teriyaki with Basil Potato Fries. He was also gratified by the favorable feedback from the media group.

Another new item that was generated for the group's approval was Coconut Shrimp with Apple Curry Sauce, which got mixed reviews, mostly concerning its taste while others said there was not enough heat.

All in all, the guests were convinced that Taoh Bar & Bar is really more than just a watering hole. So next time you are at the Power Plant Mall, remember that Taoh is not just a bar, it is also a bistro, a world of French cuisine that makes it a small Japanese restaurant.



Taoh, located at the ground level of Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City, tel. 8500080 and 8501420, opens for lunch at 11:30 a.m., Monday to Saturday (closed on Sundays at the moment). It is open until 1 or 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Happy Hours are 5:30-7:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. It is a happy hour for one on local beers and 20 percent off on the Taoh menu, a selection of pizza-pasta that includes Traditional French, Spring Rolls (a recipe of Lupo's wife, Jackie Kinnell), Grilled Calamari, Pique, Truffle Pique and Lamb Chops.

Email the author at David@inspire.com.ph.

CHOCOLATE
Dessert is a rich chocolate cake with butterscotch sauce.



THE NEW Grilled Chicken Teriyaki with Basil Potato Fries is welcome to new guests. Lupo who likes Japanese food.



COCO Flakes—a thick, breaded pork shank served with potato, egg and green mango salad.

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BLM releases
jailers. White
journalists had
Wangchuk
blame some
crashes of
1973-74.

A possible dream

I HAVE received numerous e-mails from messengers asking about how you can become a child if funds are limited. It is true the shortest path to take to embark on a career in the kitchen is through a chef's education but of course, not

But the stream is irresistibly easy without going through the normal ruts. The stream of Humphrey Norton, Neil Munro and Eric Sutherland, three world-class blow chisellers who did it blow way, should serve as an inspiration.

Multi-armed bandit

Emphylus Wazawa is assistant director for culinary arts at the International School for Culinary Arts and Food Management.

No. From: Joffe is an unauthorized agent

KITCHEN RESCUE



Statistical Analysis

Humphrey: This is a man full of energy and love for his craft. With time, he conquered the country's most exclusive institutions, represented the Philippines in competitive and international occasions and he led the nation.

To me, this gentle creature is off heart, a piece of silk. No one deserves a more tender state than Wangfeng. To give my friend, I will nothing but the best!

Is it possible to achieve the dream of being a self-employed person with a limited budget?

Subject: _____

What number was the last to be set in the 1990s?

What makes you decide to do it?

One morning, however, in my hotel, I was not

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